

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 6 and 10, as shown below. A listing of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A multiple beam scanning device for scanning a plurality of light beams across a light receiving member, the multiple beam scanning device comprising:

an array light source including at least a first and a second sub-array light sources, the second sub-array light source being used whereas the first sub-array light source remains unused, the first and second sub-array light source ~~sources~~ each being configured to simultaneously emit a plurality of light beams with independently modulatable light intensity, wherein the first sub-array light source ~~is may be functionally substituted~~ substitutably for the second sub-array light source; and

an optical unit that converges the light beams emitted from any one of the first and second sub-array light sources and simultaneously scans the light beams in parallel with equidistant spacing across the light receiving member.

2. (Previously Amended) The multiple beam scanning device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a detection unit that detects when the second sub-array light source is defective while the second sub-array light source is emitting the plurality of light beams to be scanned by the optical unit; and

a switching unit configured to switch from the second sub-array light source to the first sub-array light source when the detection unit detects that the second sub-array light source is defective.

3. (Previously presented) The multiple beam scanning device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the detection unit includes a light detection unit that detects light intensity of each light beam emitted from the second sub-array light source, the detection unit detecting that the second sub-array light source is defective when the light detection unit detects that the light intensity of at least one of the plurality of light beams emitted from the second sub-array light source is outside a predetermined range.

4. (Currently amended) The multiple beam scanning device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the array light source further includes a common base for each of the at least first and [[a]] second sub-array light sources, and each of the at least first and a second sub-array light sources include the same number of semi-conductor lasers formed integrally on the common base.

5. (Previously presented) The multiple beam scanning device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the semi-conductor lasers of each of the at least first and second sub-array light sources are arranged in a first direction, and each of the at least first and second sub-array light sources is arranged in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction.

6. (Currently amended) A multiple beam scanning device for scanning a plurality of light beams across a light receiving member, the multiple beam scanning device comprising:

an array light source including at least [[a]] first and second sub-array light ~~source~~
sources, the second sub-array light source being used whereas the first sub-array light source

remains unused, the first and second sub-array light sources being configured to simultaneously emit a plurality of light beams with independently modulatable light intensity wherein a first sub-array light source ~~may be~~ is functionally substituted-substitutable for a-the second sub-array light source ~~of the plurality of sub-array light sources~~; and

a drive unit configured to drive a selected sub-array light source of the first and second sub-array light sources to emit the light beams, wherein a selection unit connects the selected sub-array light source to the drive unit.

7. (Previously amended) The multiple beam scanning device as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a detection unit that detects when the second sub-array light source is defective, wherein the selection unit selects the first sub-array light source when the detection unit detects that the second sub-array light source is defective.

8. (Original) The multiple beam scanning device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the array light source further includes a common base for all of the sub-array light sources, each of the sub-array light sources including the same number of semi-conductor lasers formed integrally on the common base.

9. (Original) An image output device comprising:
a light receiving member; and
the multiple beam scanning device of claim 1.

10. (Currently amended) The image output device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the

multiple beam scanning device further includes:

a detection unit that detects when the second sub-array light source is defective, wherein the second sub-array light source is presently emitting the plurality of light beams to be scanned by the optical unit; and

a switching unit that switches a sub-array light source in use from the second sub-array light source to the first sub-array light source ~~source~~ source when the detection unit detects that the second sub-array light source is defective.

11. (Previously presented) The image output device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the detection unit includes a light detection unit that detects light intensity of each light beam emitted from the second sub-array light source, the detection unit detecting that the second sub-array light source is defective when the light detection unit detects that light intensity of at least one of the plurality of light beams emitted from the second sub-array light source is outside a predetermined range.

12. (Original) The image output device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the array light source further includes a common base for all of the sub-array light sources, each of the sub-array light sources including the same number of semiconductor lasers formed integrally on the common base.

13. (Original) An image output device comprising:
a light receiving member; and
the multiple beam scanning device of claim 6.

14. (Previously presented) The image output device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the multiple beam scanning device further includes a detection unit that detects when the second sub-array light source is defective, and the selection unit selects the first sub-array light source when the detection unit detects that the second sub-array light source is defective.

15. (Previously presented) The multiple beam scanning device of claim 1, where any sub-array light source of the at least first and second sub-array light sources may be functionally substituted for any other sub-array light source of the at least first and second sub-array light sources.

16. (Previously presented) The multiple beam scanning device of claim 6, where any sub-array light source of the at least first and second sub-array light sources may be functionally substituted for any other sub-array light source of the at least first and second sub-array light sources.